

Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025, 9:30am

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA
612 Division St. | La Crosse, WI | 608.782.3468
WWW.OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH.NET
**"Our mission is to make the love of Christ known
to all as we worship, serve and grow together."**

All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God.

God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord, including ongoing work for racial equity in our Church and in the world.

Joanne Richmond, Senior Pastor—pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Sandra Schultz, WCC Coordinator—wccloset@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Mary Ender Stutesman, Music Coordinator & Organist—stuteswoman@gmail.com
Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist
Liz Bahr, Cantor | Judi Winkler, Custodian | Roger Loing, Custodian

Welcome, visitors! We're glad you are here! We hope your time with us is a blessing, and that you will come back soon.

We would like to be in touch with you! **Visitors**—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form (www.allarewelcome.org under the Live Stream tab) today. **Members**—you only need to fill them out once a year when you receive Holy Communion. **In addition**, use the form for prayer requests, hymn requests, to get the monthly newsletter, to give us address changes, or for any communication with the office or pastor.

If you need **hearing assistance**, ask in the church office for our special devices. If you need **assistance with the live stream**, please call 608.782.3468 or join us on the phone live stream at 1.877.552.3468 (toll-free).

+FOR OUR WORSHIP TODAY+

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joanne Richmond

AV Team: Gary Wold

Communion Assistant: Cheryl Vieth

Guitarist: Colin Stiemke

Prayer Reader: Cheryl Vieth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

ADVENT CANDLE #4

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned.

Holy God, you sent your gift of pure love to us.

Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin.

Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem.

All of your love was robed in the delicate skin
of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes.

This final week of Advent,
help us to reflect on the magnitude of love
that was made manifest in Jesus.

Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW #715 verse 1 and refrain

Christ, Be Our Light

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security you provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God
awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
+ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
as we prepare to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN***The King Shall Come*****ELW #260****The King Shall Come**

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE**Soon and Very Soon****ELW #439****Soon and Very Soon**

1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King.

[1, 2, 3]



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - -



jah, hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Jesus, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18—25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

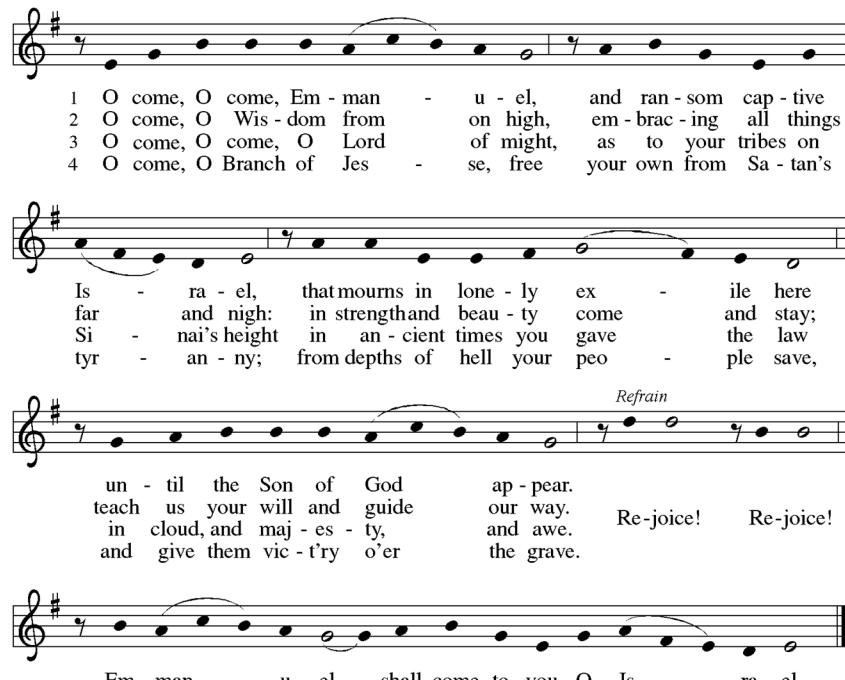
YOUNG PERSON'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne Richmond

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW #257 vs. 1, 5, 7, 8

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'ly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless young children and their parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

NOISY OFFERING FOR THE EMERGENCY FUND

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW #266

All Earth Is Hopeful
Toda la tierra

 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

1-3 4
 cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver-dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar;
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 En una cueva Jesús apareció,
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Little Drummer Boy

For King and Country

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOR'S

Christmas is coming—and we can't wait to worship and celebrate together! Join us for these special services as we welcome the birth of Christ and share the joy of the season.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 12 noon

A service of word and sacrament.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 4:30pm

A joyful, family-friendly candlelight service filled with music and light.

Christmas Day

Thursday December 25, 2025, 9:30am

Start Christmas morning in worship, celebrating the good news of Jesus' birth!

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 9:30am

The celebration continues! Come for a warm, joy-filled service as we keep singing the songs of Christmas—**and don't forget, it's Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday!**

The brighter, the bolder, the better!

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am

We'll wrap up the Christmas season together and step into the new year with hearts full of hope and light (plus a table full of everyone's favorite New Year's goodies during Coffee Fellowship.) Bring something you love to welcome 2026!

MEAT THE NEED

This December, we're collecting canned meat for the **Hunger Task Force of La Crosse**. Items like **tuna, chicken, Spam, beef stew, chili with meat, and corned beef hash** are especially appreciated. Please place donations in the grocery cart in the narthex anytime this month. Thank you for helping feed our neighbors!

YEAR-END GIVING—HELP US FINISH 2025 STRONG!

As we look toward the close of the year, we are deeply grateful for the generosity that sustains our ministry. Your gifts make it possible for Our Savior's to bless our neighborhood, our community, and our world in meaningful ways. Thank you for all you do!

Ways to Share Your Year-End Gift:

- **In Worship:** Place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday.
- **Online:** Give through our secure online giving portal on Our Savior's website.
- **By Mail:** Send your gift to *Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PO Box 97, La Crosse, WI 54602-0097.*

Important Giving Deadlines:

- **In-person gifts** must be received by **Sunday, December 28, at 9:30am** to be included on your 2025 giving statement.
- **Online gifts** must be received by **Sunday, December 21** for 2025 credit.
- Gifts received after these dates will be credited to your **2026** giving statement.

Thank you for helping us finish the year with strength, gratitude, and hope! Your faithful support truly makes a difference.

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting! Together we will hear leadership reports, reflect on the ministry we've shared over the past year, and vote on the 2026 budget as well as the ballot of individuals recommended to serve on the 2025 Church Council. Your presence and voice matter as we look ahead with faith and hope.

For Committee Chairs and Organizational Presidents: Please submit your reports to the church office by **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. If your committee or group manages a checkbook, be sure to include a financial report as well. Thank you for your leadership, your time, and your continued dedication to Our Savior's ministry!

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

POST ON A FRIG, NEAR A PHONE, ON AN ALTAR AND ANY OTHER SACRED PLACE

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Noisy Offering—Emergency Fund

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am M-MPC
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

9am—1pm Office Open
10am—12 pm Gas Vouchers

Tuesday

9am—1pm Office Open
1—5pm WCC open
4pm CFS Doors Open
4:15—5:15pm CFS Meal Served
5:15—5:30pm CFS Carry Outs

Wednesday

Christmas Eve
9am—1pm Office Open
12 noon Worship/HC
4:30pm Worship/HC

Thursday

Christmas Day
9:30am Worship/HC

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

Women's Clothes Closet Closed

Sunday, December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALING AND PEACE

Ardelle Ender, **Athena** Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Casey** Kanter, **Cassie**, **Cathy** Ofte, **Cindy** Moe, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Debe**, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane** Spear, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Pastor Joanne**, **Jon**, **Joshua**, **Jim** Garson, **Jim** Radatz, **Juliana** Andrews, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Margo** Erickson, **Mary** Covey, **Michael** Speer, **Monica & Jack** Devereaux, **Morris** Buros, **Pamela** Mathis, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Roger** Loing, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Roy** Modahl, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Pastor Steve** Minnema, **Tom** Cade, and **Vera** Wensole

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

Bill Temte, **Ardis** Bolstad, and **Rick** Feran

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Ricky Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Richard Moyer	December 23
Matthew Linse	December 24
Hannah Smaby	December 26
Jill Buck	December 27
Amy Wells	December 27
Bev Burand	December 28
Judi Winkler	December 28

Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion

M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club

CFS—Come For Supper